

I am writing in favor of a much stronger bill than is proposed in S.B. 445 (Raised), An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations of the Task Force on the Sale of Cats and Dogs from Inhumane Origins at Connecticut Pet Shops. I am currently a registered voter In Clinton, but recently moved to Guilford, and will henceforth be voting in Guilford. Although I am a volunteer for both Connecticut Votes for Animals and Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, I am writing this note as a private citizen.

It is my firm belief that anyone who cares about companion animal health and welfare should strongly support an immediate and complete ban on the sale of commercially-bred puppies in Connecticut pet stores (and elsewhere).

- Nothing justifies the widespread and unnecessary cruelty to many of the animals used for breeding.
- Nothing justifies the unhealthy, insanitary, and non-socialized conditions under which many of the puppies spend their first weeks of life.
- The standards set for commercial breeding kennels by the Federal Animal Welfare Act are incredibly low.
- Adding more animals of questionable background to the already excessive dog population is in itself cruel, especially since research indicates that pet store dogs have more behavioral and health problems than dogs raised as puppies by non-commercial breeders.
- Selling puppies to anyone who pays, with no check on the suitability of the new owners, often puts the puppies back in bad situations.
- The pet industry has had many years to clean up its act, and has failed to do so.
- Such a ban would not at all be an attack on small businesses in general. It would be weeding out one small and unethical type of small business. In fact, condoning and even encouraging the practices of one unethical type of business can give many other small businesses a “black eye” by association.

Thank you for permitting me to present my opinion and the reasoning behind it. I believe that the vast majority of the population, including small business owners, is strongly in favor of getting rid of puppy mills entirely. The Environment Committee appears to be out of step with the views of the majority of the population it serves.

Jennifer Kelsey
Guilford/Clinton